Export of Rice

3844. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to export 30 lakh tonnes of rice during the current financial year;

(b) if so, what would be the export price; and

(c) the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) As per Exim Policy, the export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural and Processed Food Products Exports Development Authority (APEDA). However, in order to liquidate the huge surplus stocks of foodgrains, with the FCI, the Government has also decided to permit export of 30 lakh MT of rice out of the stocks held by FCI for the Central Pool during the year 2001-02. The export price of rice is fixed after taking into consideration the international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices by the High Level Committee.

Decline in Automobile Export

3845. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA' : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

((a) whether the automobile export has declined during the first three months of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons, therefor;

(c) the segment of automobile which constitutes the major share in total export; and

(d) the steps taken for increasing the share of autotmobile export during the rest of the months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The decline in the export of automobiles is mainly due to the overall slowdown in world economy which has resulted in contraction in demand in the major export markets for automobiles. In addition, competition from major